Claims:

1. A method of ensuring compliance by a user with a medication program, such method comprising the steps of:

providing the user with a medication dispensing unit for dispensing medication to the user, said medication dispensing unit having a wireless transceiver operatively coupled to a controller of the medication dispensing unit;

downloading a first set of instructions to the controller of the medication dispensing unit through the wireless transceiver, the downloaded set of instructions being adapted to control the dispensing of medication to the user from the medication unit; and

downloading a second set instructions to the user through the wireless transceiver for presentation to the user concurrent with the dispensing of medication, the downloaded second set of instructions being adapted to instruct the user about how to use the dispensed medication.

2. The method for ensuring compliance as in claim 1 further comprising downloading the first and second sets of instructions through the wireless transceiver from a remotely located server.

3. The method for ensuring compliance as in claim 1 wherein the step of downloading the second set of instructions further comprises verbally presenting the instruction about how to use the medication to the user through an electro-acoustic transducer of the medication unit.

4. The method for ensuring compliance as in claim 1 wherein the step of downloading the second set of instructions further comprises displaying the instructions about how to use the medication on a display of the medication unit.

5. The method for ensuring compliance as in claim 1 further comprising determining a time to dispense the medication based upon the first set of instructions downloaded to the medication unit.

6. The method for ensuring compliance as in claim 5 further comprising dispensing the medication based upon the determined time.

7. The method for ensuring compliance as in claim 6 wherein the step of downloading the first set of instructions further comprises downloading instructions for a plurality of medication dispensing events and executing the medication dispensing events in accordance with a schedule of medication events.

8. The method for ensuring compliance as in claim 6 further comprising activating a medication notification alert based upon the determined time.

9. The method for ensuring compliance as in claim 8 further comprising defining the medication notification alert as an audible alert.

10. The method for ensuring compliance as in claim 8 further comprising defining the medication notification alert as a visual alert.

11. The method for ensuring compliance as in claim 6 further comprising detecting removal of the medication from the dispenser by the patient.

12. The method for ensuring compliance as in claim 11 further comprising detecting an identifier of the medication when the medication is removed from the dispenser by the patient.

13. The method for ensuring compliance as in claim 12 wherein the step of detecting an identifier further comprises reading a bar code from a wrapper of the medication when the medication is removed from the dispenser by the patient.

14. The method for ensuring compliance as in claim 12 wherein the step of detecting an identifier further comprises reading a radio frequency identification tag on the medication when the medication is removed from the dispenser by the patient.

15. The method for ensuring compliance as in claim 12 wherein the step of detecting an identifier further comprising storing the identifier in a medication log along with a time of removal.

16. The method for ensuring compliance as in claim 12 wherein the step of storing the identifier in a medication

log further comprises transferring the medication log to the server upon receiving a request from the server.

17. The method for ensuring compliance as in claim 6 further comprising determining a time limit for accepting the medication by the user from the dispenser following the dispensing of the medication.

18. The method for ensuring compliance as in claim 17 further comprising determining that the time limit for accepting the medication has expired and notifying the server of the failure of the user to accept the medication.

19. The method for ensuring compliance as in claim 1 further comprising notifying the user when a medication has been missed.

20. The method for ensuring compliance as in claim 1 further comprising notifying the server when a medication has been missed.

21. The method for ensuring compliance as in claim 1 further comprising notifying the user when the dispenser is empty.

22. The method for ensuring compliance as in claim 1 further comprising notifying the server when the dispenser is empty.

23. A method of ensuring compliance by a user with a medication program, such method comprising the steps of:

providing the user with a medication dispensing unit for dispensing medication to the user and a wireless transceiver operatively coupled to a controller of the medication dispensing unit;

downloading a set of instructions for controlling the medication unit from a server to the controller of the medication dispensing unit through the wireless transceiver; and

downloading a set instructions that instructs the user about how to use the dispensed medication through the wireless transceiver to the user.

24. A medication compliance system for dispensing medication to a user, comprising:

a medication dispenser for dispensing the medication;

a cellular controller coupled to the medication dispenser and adapted to dispense the medication under control of instructions downloaded from a medication server through a local cellular communication system; and

an audio/visual interface adapted to instruct a user on the use of the dispensed medication in accordance with the instructions downloaded through the local cellular system.

25. The medication compliance system as in claim 24 wherein the medication further comprises a tablet.

26. The system for dispensing medication as in claim 24 wherein the audio/video interface further comprises an audio transducer.

27. The medication compliance system as in claim 24 wherein the audio/video interface further comprises a video display.

28. An medication compliance system for medicating a user, comprising:

a medication dispensing unit provided to the user for dispensing medication to the user;

a wireless transceiver operatively coupled to a controller of the medication dispensing unit;

a first set of instructions downloaded to the controller of the medication dispensing unit through the wireless transceiver, the downloaded set of instructions being adapted to control the dispensing of medication to the user from the medication unit; and

a second set instructions downloaded to the medication dispensing unit through the wireless transceiver for presentation to the user concurrent with the dispensing of medication, the downloaded second set of instructions being adapted to instruct the user about how to use the dispensed medication.

29. The medication compliance system as in claim 28 further comprising a remotely located server that downloads the first and second sets of instructions through the wireless transceiver to the medication dispensing unit.

30. The medication compliance system as in claim 28 further comprising an electro-acoustic transducer for verbally presenting at least a portion of the second instructions about how to use the medication to the user.

31. The medication compliance system as in claim 28 further comprises a display adapted to display at least a portion of the second set of instructions about how to use the medication to the user.

32. The medication compliance system as in claim 28 wherein the first and second sets of instructions further comprise a schedule of medication events for executing a plurality of medication dispensing events over a predetermined time interval.

33. The medication compliance system as in claim 28 further comprising a clock adapted to determining a time to dispense the medication based upon the first set of instructions downloaded to the medication unit.

34. The medication compliance system as in claim 33 further comprising an actuator adapted to dispense the medication based upon the determined time.

35. The medication compliance system as in claim 33 further comprising an alerting device adapted to alert the user to the need for medication.

36. The medication compliance system as in claim 35 further comprising defining the medication notification alert as an audible alert.

37. The medication compliance system as in claim 35 further comprising defining the medication notification alert as a visual alert.

38. The medication compliance system as in claim 33 further comprising a bar code reader adapted to detect removal of the medication from the dispenser by the patient.

39. The medication compliance system as in claim 33 further comprising a radio frequency identification tag reader adapted to detect removal of the medication from the dispenser by the patient.